

**VASTox plc**  
**(“VASTox” or “the Company”)**

**PATENT GRANTED IN THE US WHICH FURTHER INCREASES VALUE OF  
DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY PROGRAMME**

**Oxford, UK, 12 April 2007** – VASTox plc (AIM: VOX) today announced that the US Patent Office has granted a patent (US Application No.10/089,928/Utrophin Gene Promoter) which provides additional protection to the Company’s drug discovery programme in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD).

The granting of this patent in the largest global pharmaceutical market significantly increases the value of VASTox’s DMD programme as it further protects the Company’s unique approach to finding new medicines to treat this fatal disease. This patent has also been filed in other territories including Europe and is in addition to an earlier DMD related patent that has already been granted in the US, Europe and Australia.

The DMD programme, entirely developed internally by VASTox, continues to make excellent progress as illustrated by the granting of this patent and the Company remains on target to announce a drug candidate to take forward into pre-clinical development by the end of H1 2007.

VASTox’s unique scientific approach involves using small drug like molecules to increase the body’s levels of a protein called utrophin to replace a very similar protein called dystrophin which is missing in DMD patients. The absence of dystrophin leads to severe muscle wasting and is ultimately fatal for all DMD sufferers.

In recent months, VASTox has sought to further strengthen the patent estate around its DMD programme through the filing of a significant number of patents which cover several classes of active compounds which have been identified during the development of the DMD programme.

Steven Lee, PhD, CEO, commented: “The award of this patent in the world’s largest pharmaceutical market is excellent news for VASTox’s DMD programme as the Company moves closer to selecting a pre-clinical development candidate. Ensuring we having a strong patent position which protects our unique therapeutic strategy for the development of new medicines to treat DMD is a vital aspect of generating value, both in this and in all drug discovery programmes.”

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## **About VASTox's DMD programme**

DMD is a devastating disease that affects young males for which there is currently no effective treatment. Patients rarely survive beyond the age of 25.

VASTox has demonstrated *in vivo* up-regulation (increased production) of the protein utrophin by a number of small molecules from their proprietary chemical library. This is a significant development as utrophin has been demonstrated to replace the function of dystrophin, which is missing in DMD patients. Up-regulation of utrophin is widely viewed by the scientific community as a highly promising avenue for the development of an effective treatment for DMD.

## **About VASTox plc**

VASTox is a leading UK biotechnology company that discovers and develops proprietary new drugs. The Company's internal drug development programmes are underpinned by its advanced chemistry and drug screening (chemical genomics) technology platforms, which it also provides on a collaborative or fee-for-service basis to the pharmaceutical industry.

VASTox has a broad range of drug discovery programmes in the clinical, pre-clinical and discovery stages of development, which target serious diseases with a high unmet medical need. These therapeutic areas include neuro-disorders (neurodegenerative and neuromuscular), anti-infectives, ophthalmic diseases, oncology and regenerative medicines.

VASTox's in-house drug development capabilities combine world-class expertise in both medicinal and carbohydrate chemistry with high-volume, high-content screening using its proprietary zebrafish and fruitfly technologies (chemical genomics). These whole organism screens have the potential to dramatically decrease the time and cost of drug discovery and development by delivering data that are highly predictive of the efficacy and toxicity of potential drug compounds in humans.

The company listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange in October 2004 – symbol: VOX

Further information about the company is available at [www.vastox.com](http://www.vastox.com)

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*Forward-looking statements are based on the Company's current expectations and assumptions regarding our business, the economy and other future conditions. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, by their nature, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. The Company's actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. The Company cautions you therefore that you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements as statements of historical fact or as guarantees or assurances of future performance. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include [factors included in this presentation] and regional, national, global political, economic, business, competitive, market and regulatory conditions.*